

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

AGR-10 INT-05 FEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

FRB-01 AID-05 /098 W

----- 118448

R 090305Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4140

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 75

UNCLAS SUVA 750

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR AS FJ

SUBJ: PHILIP CAIRNS AND THE FIJI CONNECTION

REF: (A) SUVA 725 (NOTAL) (B) SUVA 730 (NOTAL)  
(C) CANBERRA 4364

1. FIJI TIMES HAS CONTINUED PRODDING GOF REGARDING DETAILS  
OF PHILIP CAIRNS VISIT TO FIJI IN MAY. ON JULY 8 TIMES ASKED  
GOF SIX QUESTIONS. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION RESPONDED QUICKLY,  
AND RESPONSES WERE PUBLISHED IN PAPER ON JULY 9. QUESTIONS  
AND ANSWERS (IN ABBREVIATED FORM) FOLLOL:

Q. DID GOF AT ANY TIME ASK AUSTRALIAN HICOM WHETHER CAIRNS  
VISIT OFFICIAL?

A. YES. WHEN ADVICE OF VISIT RECEIVED THROUGH FIJI HICOM  
CANBERRA, PERMANENT SECTY COMMERCE APPROACHED AUSTRALIAN HICOM  
SUVA. LATTER HAD NO RPT NO INFORMATION ON VISIT. GOF  
REQUESTED FIJI HICOM CANBERRA TO CHECK FURTHER, AND RECEIVED  
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BACK WORD THAT VISIT WAS OFFICIAL.

Q. IN DISCUSSIONS, DID CAIRNS SAY HE WAS ACTING ON BEHALF OF GOA?

A. IN DISCUSSIONS ON MAY 7 AND 8, CAIRNS SAID HE WAS ACTING IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. FURTHER, IN LETTER DATED MAY 19 TO MINISTER OF COMMERCE, PHILIP CAIRNS WROTE IN CAPACITY OF PRIVATE SECRETARY TO TREASURER/DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JIM CAIRNS.

Q. IN ADDITION TO MINISTER OF COMMERCE, WERE ANY OTHER GOV. MINISTERS INVOLVED?

A. IN ADDITION TO COMMERCE MINISTER, FOLLOWING TOOK PART IN DISCUSSIONS: MINISTER OF FINANCE, ACTING MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND MINISTER OF LABOR. (ANSWER ALSO GIVES NAMES OF NINE OTHER HIGH RANKING CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS.)

Q. CAN COMMERCE MINISTER BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT DISCUSSION? WERE GALAL AND ASSOCIATES OFFERING MONEY FOR INVESTMENT OR WERE THEY OFFERING TO TRY AND GET MONEY?

A. GOV. STATEMENT OF JULY 3 (REF B) STATED TALKS WERE ENTIRELY EXPLORATORY COVERING SUCH THINGS AS OIL AND SUGAR REFINERIES. OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE FISHING AND TIMBER INDUSTRIES, ACCESS FOR MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES TO FIJI, WOOD PULP MILL, POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING CRUDE PETROLEUM AND HAVING IT REFINED IN GREECE OR ITALY, FINANCE FOR FIJI DEVELOPMENT BANK OR ESTABLISHMENT OF MERCHANT BANK FOR FIJI OR SOUTH PACIFIC REGION. GALAL INTIMATED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR INVESTORS FROM MIDDLE EAST PREPARED TO LOOK INTO SETTING UP OIL REFINERY, BUT FIRST WANTED INFORMATION ON AMOUNT AND TYPES FIJI REQUIRED. GALAL AND ASSOCIATES WERE NOT OFFERING MONEY FOR INVESTMENT THEMSELVES BUT SUBMITTED THEY WOULD ARRANGE FOR INVESTMENTS IN FIJI ONCE THEY IDENTIFIED VARIOUS AREAS IN WHICH FIJI WELCOMES INVESTMENT.

Q. WHAT WAS EXTENT OF MR. IAN RICHARDSON'S INVOLVEMENT?

A. RICHARDSON PRESENTED HIMSELF AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF UNCLASSIFIED

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RAWAIA INTERNATIONAL PTY. LTD. AUSTRALIA AND WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS.

Q. CAIRNS HAS SAID HE VISITED FIJI FOUR TIMES IN PAST YEAR. WERE THERE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS KIND OR ANY OTHER KIND DURING HIS PREVIOUS VISITS?

A. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE ONLY AWARE OF TWO VISITS TO FIJI BY

PHILIP CAIRNS, FIRST ON MAY 7-8, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS OFFICIAL, AND SECOND ON JUNE 19 WHICH CAIRNS CLEARLY INDICATED WAS UNOFFICIAL. HIS DISCUSSIONS ON LATTER OCCASION WITH COMMERCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE ON BEHALF RAWAIA INTERNATIONAL AND CONCERNED AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN BREEDING PRIME BEEF CATTLE IN FIJI.

2. TIMES ALSO CARRIES REPRODUCTION OF ACTURAL LETTER OF MAY 19 FROM PHILIP CAIRNS TO COMMERCE MINISTER KHAN IN WHICH CIARNS SAID INTER ALIA "I BELIEVE THAT THE CONCEPT OF THE PETROL REFINERY IS OF THE UTMOST SIGNIFICANCE TO FIJI AND COULD HAVE ENORMOUS BENEFITS TO YOUR ECONOMY. WITHIN HOURS OF GENERAL GALAL'S RETURN TO BAHREIN, NO FEWER THAN THREE OFFERS WERE EXTENDED TO BUILD A PETROL REFINERY IN FIJI AND I ALSO BELIEVE THAT FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL PROMISES WERE MADE IN REFERENCE TO LOAN FUNDS AND GRANTS TO FIJI."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INVESTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
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